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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,927	12/18/2001	Takashi Yazu	32014-177339	1477

20987 7590 10/31/2006

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EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2626

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/017,927

Applicant(s)

YAZU, TAKASHI

Examiner

Angela A. Armstrong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
2. Regarding claims 1-3, applicant claims “a first detection module that detects a paragraph section line having a recurrent string pattern based on a character column of one line, wherein the recurrent string pattern comprises a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kinds of symbols; and a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the character column, after deleting the paragraph section line from the character column.” It is unclear as to what applicant regards as “a character column in one line,” or “a rest of the character column.” It is unclear as to what or how the paragraph section line or “recurrent string” is detected based on the character column of one line. It is unclear how a paragraph section line is deleted from a character column of one line, as it is not known if a paragraph section is comprised of character columns or if the character column is comprised of multiple paragraph sections. Hence, it is unclear what is synthesized for output if the paragraph is deleted.
3. Regarding claims 4-6, applicant claims “a first detection module that detects symmetry of a row of a symbol character column based on a character column in one line; and a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the character column, after deleting

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symbol character column intervals from the character column that have been detected as having symmetry by said detection module.” It is unclear as to what applicant regards as “a character column of one line.”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamada (US Patent No. 6,411,931).

5. Regarding claim 1, Yamada discloses an apparatus for converting character data into audio data (col. 5, line 24 to col. 8, line 19) and teaches a first detection module that detects a paragraph section line having a recurrent string pattern based on a character column of one line, wherein the recurrent string pattern comprises a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kinds of symbols (Figure 3, elements 21,22; col. 11, lines 5-67); and a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the character column, after deleting the paragraph section line from the character column (col. 5, line 24 to col. 8, line 19).

Regarding claim 2, Yamada teaches the recurrent string pattern is comprised of one kind of symbol that is repeated a plurality of times and another kind of symbol (Figure 3, elements 21,22).

Regarding claim 3, Yamada teaches the paragraph section includes another kind of symbol added as a last character of the character column, at an end of the recurrent string pattern (Figure 3, elements 21,22).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada (US Patent No. 6,411,931) in view of Baum (US Patent No. 6,256,610).

7. Regarding claim 4, Yamada discloses an apparatus for converting character data into audio data (col. 5, line 24 to col. 8, line 19) and teaches a first detection module that detects symmetry of a row of a symbol character column based on a character column in one line (Figure 3, element 21,22); and a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the character column, after deleting symbol character column intervals from the character column that have been detected as having symmetry by said detection module (col. 5, line 24 to col. 8, line 19). Yamada does not teach detecting symmetrical patterns of symbol characters at a beginning and an end of a character column. Baum discloses a system for avoiding headers/footers (col. 4, lines 32-47) while synthesizing speech for a reading machine in which headers of successive pages (the character columns) are compared to determine if the header of the first page (symmetrical pattern of symbol characters at the beginning of the character

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column) is the same as the header of the second page (the symmetrical pattern of symbol characters at the end of the character column). Baum discloses detecting the similar headers/footers to alleviate synthesizing text that has been previously synthesized or text that is included in the body of the document that is being synthesized, for the purpose of making the system less annoying and more useful to the user (column 1, lines 35-40; col. 1, line 64 to col. 2, line 25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Yamada to implement a header/footer or text avoidance filter so as to avoid synthesis of undesired text, as suggested by Baum, for the purpose of making the system less annoying and more useful to the user, as taught by Baum.

Regarding claim 5, Yamada teaches respective symbols (< and >) of symbol character column intervals have symmetry with respect to shape (Figure 3, element 21,22).

Regarding claim 6, Yamada teaches a count module for counting up when a pair of symbols at symmetrical positions within the character column have the same shape, whereby the detection module deletes respective strings of symbol characters as the symbol character column intervals when said count value is a predetermined value (col. 8, lines 11-19).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed July 10, 2006, with respect to claims 1-3 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues the Yamada reference not disclose a first detection module that detects a paragraph section line having a recurrent string pattern in a character column of one line, wherein the recurrent string pattern comprises a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kind of symbols or describe or consider a paragraph section line.

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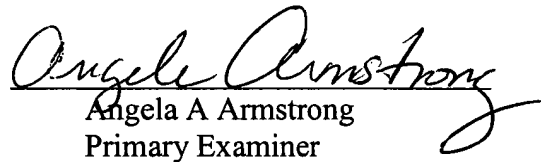
The Examiner cannot concur. At col. 11, lines 5-67, Yamada discloses the system provides for the skip condition data which comprises a group of data B(1) to B(i₁) such that the skip condition data (recurrent string pattern) is a string of signal having character data B(1), B(2),.....B(i), B(i+1),....and B(i₁). Additionally, Yamada discloses the system compares each sentence in the conversion required text with the skip condition requirements and examines whether or not the character data of the sentence corresponds to the skip condition data. Therefore, comparing the text of each sentence to determine if there is skip condition data within the sentence provides adequate support for first detection module that detects a paragraph section line having a recurrent string pattern in a character column of one line.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 571-272-7598. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 11:30-8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Angela A. Armstrong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626

AAA
October 17, 2006